Appeal By Andhra Pradesh Against Taking up the Upper Tunga Project

922. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has appealed against the Karnataka Government from taking up the proposed Upper Tunga Project, thus reducing inflows into the parched districts of Rayalaseema; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged Union Government to review sanctions/clearance granted to Upper Tunga and other porjects of Krishna basin in Karnataka and also restraining the letter from proceeding with their construction. However, the Union Government has not given investment clearance to Upper Tunga Project.

Depletion of Ground Water

923. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to find out the reasons of the growing depletion of ground water;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to overcome the problem of ground water depletion; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steps taken by the Union Government to check the decline in ground water level includes:

(i) Circulation of a 'Model Bill' to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of gound water development.

(ii) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Constitution of Central ground Water Board as an Authority for the regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(iv) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme of 'Studies in Recharge of Ground Water' by Central Ground Water Board in Maharashtra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh in coordination with concerned State Governments.

Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal

924. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what were the salient features of the Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal;

(b) to what extent the Award has been followed/implemented by concerned parties;

(c) whether an all party delegation under the stewardship of Shri J.H. Patel, Karnataka, Chief Minister met Prime Minister and him;

(d) if so, the details of suggestion put forth by such delegation;

(e) whether similar delegation from Tamil Nadu had also given its suggestion in recent past; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken to settle the dispute at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per the Interim order dated 25.6.91 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) the State of Karnataka is to make available 205 TMC of water in Tamil Nadu's Mettur reservoir in a year

from June to may with monthly and weekly stipulations. Six TMC water for Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry will be delivered by the State of Tamil Nadu in a regulated manner and the State of Karnataka shall not increase its area under irrigation by the waters of the river Cauvery beyond existing 11.2 lac acres.

(b) While as per the date observed by Central Water Commission at Billigundulu (60 Km. upstream of Mettur dam), Mettur dam has received more than 205 TMC annually since water year 1991-92, the monthly and weekly stipulations according to the order of the Tribunal were not observed.

However, as per the data collected from Mettur reservoir authorities of Tamil Nadu, the Mettur dam has received more than 205 TMC of water annually in all the water years since 1991-92 except in the water year 1995-96 but Government of Tamil Nadu have been complaining about non-observance of monthly and weekly stipulations made in the order of the Tribunal.

According to the Union Territory of Pondicherry, they have been receiving their share of 6 TMC of water from Tamil Nadu in a regulated manner.

The Central Government has no mechanism at present to determine the actual area irrigated in the State of Karnataka by the water of river Cauvery. However, the Government of Karnataka has stated as under:—

"The area under irrigation in Karnataka as on 1971 was 6.82 lakh acres and has reached 11.2 lakh acres by 1990. On the completion of its on-going projects the irrigation in Karnataka is expected to reach 24 lakh acres." Presumably, this Information is for Cauvery basin. However, State Government is being requested to clarify. As per the Annual Plan 1995-96 the anticipated potential proposed to be created in Cauvery basin of Karnataka was 520.04 thousand hecteres (12.845 lakh acres).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An all party delegation from Karnataka led by the Honourable Chief Minister met the Prime Minister on 10.7.1997 and submitted a Memorandum on "Sharing of Cauvery Waters and the Proposed Cauvery River Authority", in connection with draft scheme formulated by Government of India undr Section 6-A of Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for implementation of the order dated 25.6.1991 of the Tribunal (CWDT) as directed by the Supreme Court.

In the Memorandum, the State of Karnataka has expressed opposition to the Draft Scheme and requested the Government of India, *inter-alia*, to initiate action to settle the dispute through mutual discussions. Further they have also requested Central Government to simultaneously take steps for early finalisation of the National Policy Guidelines for water collection amongst States.

(e) No, Sir. However, Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu has requested Government of India to implement the above mentioned scheme with some minor modifications.

(f) The draft scheme is proposed to be finalised after examining the comments of all party States.

जल संग्रहण की पारम्परिक विधियां

925. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान विज्ञान एवं पर्यावरण केन्द्र द्वारा "भारत के पर्यावरण -1997" पर जारी चौथे प्रतिवेदन की ओर दिलाया गया है, यदि हां, तो जल संग्रहण की पारम्परिक विधियों को पुनरुजीवित करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या-क्या कदम उठाये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और इस संबंध में क्या-क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार इसका अध्ययन करने के बाद आवश्यक कार्यवाही करेगी; और